

(D) with respect to the weight of the composition as a whole.

B3 19. (new) Moldings characterized in that they are molded from the antistatic polymer composition of Claim 8.

20. (new) Transfer medium-separating guide parts for electrophotographic devices characterized in that they are molded from the antistatic polymer composition of Claim 8.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in the Office Action dated May 10, 2001 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are now pending, with Claims 1 and 8 being independent. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 11-20 have been added. Support for these claim amendments can be found in the specification as follows:

- claim 11: at least at page 13, line 1.
- claim 12: at least at page 11, lines 21-28; and page 19, lines 12-15.
- claim 13: at least at page 19, lines 12-15; and claim 1 as originally filed.
- claim 14: at least at page 11, lines 21-28; page 15, lines 18-21; and page 19, lines 12-15.
- claim 15: at least at page 11, lines 21-24.
- claims 16-20: at least at page 10, lines 11-13; page 10, line 14 through page 13, lines 4; and claims 2-6 as originally filed.

No new matter has been added.

Turning now to the Office Action:

Regarding the Section 102 rejection of claims 8 and 10 over JP 01245045, a translation of which is being submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement filed simultaneously herewith, Applicant respectfully traverses. JP 01245045 does not specifically disclose or suggest a plasticizer of ion-conductive polyether-based polymer, as recited, inter alia, in claim 1 of the present application. See page 4, fourth paragraph of the translation of JP 01245045 ("...all of the plasticizers illustrated above have good compatibility with ABS resins.") No mention is made of

plasticizers that necessarily would be plasticizers of ion-conductive polyether-based polymer.

Withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection of claims 8 and 10 is therefore requested.

Applicant respectfully traverses the multiple Section 103 rejections, as set forth at points 5, 6, 7, and 9 of the Office Action, relating to various combinations of claims 1-7 and 9 over one or more of U.S. Patent No. 5,886,098 (Ueda et al.), U.S. Patent No. 5,700,857 (Mukohyama), U.S. Patent No. 5,624,987 (Brink et al.), JP 01163252, and U.S. Patent No. 4,920,166 (Buysch et al.).

Regarding the Section 103 rejection of claims 1-2 and 5 over Ueda et al., Ueda et al. does not disclose or suggest the use of an ion source as recited in component (C). Rather, Ueda et al. teaches the use of a compatibilizer; while some of the compatibilizers may contain ion sources, there is simply no clear motivation to choose a compatibilizer containing an ion source, let alone the specific ion sources as recited in component (C) of claims 1-2 and 5. Furthermore, Ueda et al. does not specifically disclose or suggest the use of a plasticizer, let alone a plasticizer of ion-conductive polyether-based polymer, as recited in claims 1-2 and 5. Ueda et al. lists "plasticizer" in a laundry list of optional additives, from which one of ordinary skill might, at best, "pick and choose" but without any clear motivation.

Regarding the Section 103 rejection of claims 3-4 and 7 over Ueda et al. in view of either Mukohyama or Brink et al., the above remarks with respect to Ueda et al. apply, even when taken in combination with Mukohyama and/or Brink et al. Neither of these two secondary references discloses, or provides any specific motivation to arrive at the use of, an ion source, as recited in component (C) of the composition in claims 3-4 and 7.

Regarding the Section 103 rejection of claim 6 over Ueda et al. in view of JP 01163252, the above remarks with respect to Ueda et al. apply, even when taken in combination with JP 01163252, which is simply silent with respect to and does not even begin to suggest the use of an ion source, as recited in component (C) of the composition of claim 6, irrespective of what JP 01163252 may disclose with respect to transfer medium separating guide parts for electrophotographic devices.

Regarding the Section 103 rejection of claim 9 over Ueda et al. in view of Buysch et al., the above remarks with respect to Ueda et al. apply, even when taken in combination with Buysch et al, which fails to disclose and does not even begin to suggest the use of an ion source, as recited in component (C) of the composition of claim 6, irrespective of what Buysch et al. may disclose with respect to water repellants.

In view of the above, Applicant requests withdrawal of all of the Section 103 rejections directed towards any of claims 1-7 and 9 over the cited art.

In addition, Applicant requests consideration of the experimental comparative data of Table 1, and in particular, PE1 and CE5 of Table 1, as evidence of secondary considerations of non-obviousness of claims 1-7 and 9. Applicant cannot comment on the pertinence of the experimental data contained in Ueda et al., but believes that the most pertinent comparative data is that set forth in Table 1 of the present application, since this data was conducted as part of the same experiment.

Regarding the Section 103 rejection of claims 8 and 10 over Ueda et al., Ueda et al. does not disclose or suggest the use of an ion source as recited in component (C). Rather, Ueda et al. teaches the use of a compatibilizer; while some of the compatibilizers may contain ion sources, there is simply no clear motivation to choose a compatibilizer containing an ion source, let alone the specific ion sources as recited in component (C) of claims 8 and 10. Furthermore, Ueda et al. does not specifically disclose or suggest the use of a plasticizer, let alone a plasticizer of ion-conductive polyether-based polymer, as recited in claims 8 and 10. Ueda et al. lists "plasticizer" in a laundry list of optional additives, from which one of ordinary skill might, at best, "pick and choose" but without any clear motivation.

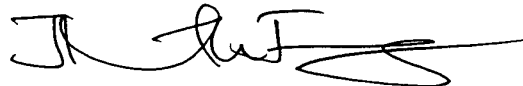
Applicant therefore requests withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of claims 8 and 10.

Applicant requests consideration of added claims 11-20, each of which ultimately depends from either claim 1 or claim 8. Applicant submits that claims 11-20 are allowable over the art of record, for the reasons stated above.

Applicant believes that the above is responsive to each of the points recited in the Office Action and submit that the present application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned may be reached at the below-listed numbers.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

In showing below the changes, deletions are in brackets and additions are underlined.

1. (amended) An antistatic polymer composition characterized in that it comprises:
 - (A) one or more polymers selected from the group consisting of polyester, polycarbonate, polyamide, polyoxymethylene, polyphenylene sulfide, and compounds of polyphenylene oxide and polystyrene;
 - (B) a ion-conductive polyether-based polymer;
 - (C) an ion source comprising: (i) a source of at least one carboxyl group or sulfo group being selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon acids containing 6-54 carbon atoms, sulfonic acids and organic polymers with at least one carboxyl group or sulfo group; and (ii) a source of at least one metal ion that is selected from the group consisting of sodium ion, potassium ion, [ammonium ion,] lithium ion, magnesium ion, [calcium ion, copper ion,] and zinc ion and that can react with the carboxyl groups or sulfo group of (i) , solid electrolytes or polymer electrolytes ; and
 - (D) a plasticizer of the aforementioned ion-conductive polyether-based polymer (B).

8. (amended) An antistatic polymer composition characterized in that it comprises:
 - (A) one or more polymers selected from the group consisting of ABS (acrylonitrile butadiene styrene), polyethylene, polypropylene, polypropylene copolymer and EPDM(ethylene/propylene/diene) elastomer;
 - (B) a polyether-system ion-conducting polymer;
 - (C) an ion source comprising: (i) a source of at least one carboxyl group or sulfo group being selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon acids containing 6-54 carbon atoms, sulfonic acids and organic polymers with at least one bonded carboxyl group or sulfo group, and (ii) a source of at least one metal ion that is selected from the group consisting of sodium ion, potassium ion, [ammonium ion,]

lithium ion, magnesium ion, [calcium ion, copper ion,] and zinc ion and that can react with the carboxyl groups or sulfo group of (i) , solid electrolytes or polymer electrolytes; and

(D) a plasticizer of the aforementioned polyether-system ion-conducting polymer (B).